

Elk Creek Watershed Council

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2018

Board Attendance

× Susan Applegate	✓ Joe Coons	× John Kittelman	× Gene Vroman
✓ Nick Botner	✓ Kittie Coons	✓ James Mast	✓ Gene Zuiches
× Harold Burris	× Linda Galetti	✓ Rick Reinhart	
× Brad Chapman	✓ Cindy Johnsrud	✓ Bob Rundell	

Others in Attendance

Jen Bailey, Susan Douthit, Lee Russell

Presentation

Susan Douthit, Douglas County Watermaster, and the Board discussed water-related issues for an hour and a half.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the January 2018 meeting minutes (motion by Bob Rundell, seconded by Rick Reinhart).

Treasurer's Report

The Board approved the Treasurer's Report of February 20, 2018 and the Accounts Payable (motion by Rick Reinhart, seconded by Gene Zuiches), with the following additions:

- Yoncalla bridge installation - Rundell - \$2057.50
- Yoncalla bridge installation - Sullivan - \$2,408.75
- Yoncalla bridge installation - Nash - \$1,530.00

Beginning Balance: 1 January 2018		\$65,926.48
Deposits:	\$0.0	
Checks:	(\$53.00)	
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Ending Balance: 31 January 2018		\$65,873.48
Deposits		0.0
Outstanding Checks		0.0
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Balance		\$65,873.48
Accounts Receivable	\$13,918.00	
Accounts Payable	\$24,881.44	
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Fund Balance		\$54,910.04

Executive Committee and Council Business

James Mast participated in the recent tide gate conference – there are regulations coming down the pipe that will impact landowners.

Bureau of Land Management

The Cohoho Christmas tree program with the Yoncalla middle school went very well, and plans are already underway for next year.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

In-stream design work in progress.

Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District

Yoncalla Creek work is ongoing – bridge installed, site prep wrapping up.

Executive Director and Council Coordinator Report –

Lee Russell and Jen Bailey reviewed the Executive Director’s report (see attached).

Old Business

None.

New Business

The Landowner Lunch is Saturday, April 7, 2018.

Adjournment

Executive Director Report

20 February 2018

Current Watershed Council Restoration Projects:

I.) Fitch Creek Culvert Removal: (#07-16-008)

- The project is complete. We may have to make some adjustments to the grade control weirs next summer.

II.) Yoncalla Creek Livestock Crossing: (#07-16-007)

- The bridge has been installed.
- The landowner may construct bigger pads under the ends, and improve the approaches, when the ground is drier in the spring.

III.) Buck Creek Fish Passage:

- The project is complete. We are considering doing a rapid bioassessment in Buck Creek next summer to see if adults were able to pass this winter.

IV.) Jack Creek Habitat Improvement:

- Signing up for CREP should satisfy OWEB's need to address the cattle issue. We were unable to get a commitment before the OWEB grant application deadline in October, but when they follow through, we should be able to submit an OWEB grant in April.

Projects in Development:

V.) Hardscrabble Creek Habitat Improvement:

- Jen and Eric are working on selecting and designing sites. An OWEB application should be ready in April.

VI.) Ellensburg Creek Habitat Improvement:

- Jen and Eric are working on selecting and designing sites. If Seneca approves, an OWEB application should be ready in April.

VII.) Sand Creek - Little Sand Creek:

- We toured Giustina Land and Timber properties on Sand Creek and Little Sand Creek with Cory Hart from Giustina. They are very proud of their riparian buffers and the instream work they have done as part of their logging operations.
- We thought there might be some opportunity to winch some of the down wood in the riparian area into the stream to enhance coho habitat.
- We might consider doing some rapid bioassessment in these creeks since they are very productive coho streams.

VIII.) Rock Creek:

- We are in the process of scheduling a meeting with the land manager from Giustina Resources (a separate entity from Giustina Land and Timber - though still in the family).
- Rock Creek is also a productive coho stream.

IX.) Jack Creek Erosion Control:

- Jen has been working with Walt Barton to develop an OWEB Small Grant project to address bank erosion on lower Jack Creek.
- Jan and Kevin Kelley own this property (formerly Hergert's), and we are also working with them to enroll in CREP.

X.) Deer Creek Culvert Project:

- Jen is working with Walt to develop a culvert project on Deer Creek that will be submitted to the OWEB Small Grant program.

XI.) Rice Creek:

- This is another possible Small Grant to address a manure management problem on Rice Creek.

Outstanding OWEB Small Grants:

XII.) Bills Creek Habitat Improvement: (#07-14-005)

- A monitoring report will be submitted in two years.

XIII.) Zuiches Riparian Improvement: (#07-14-006)

- A monitoring report will be submitted in two years.

Current Watershed Council Monitoring Projects:

XIV.) Watershed Assessment/Bioassessment (BLM):

- I've started discussions with John Runyon (Cascade Environmental) about work for 2018. We have funding to complete another 10 miles next summer.
- We need to select streams that will support the Council's long-term strategies and goals.
- We also need to develop a template for presenting the bioassessment data to landowners. We will be able to use this as an outreach tool to landowners showing conditions on their properties, and what we want to do for restoration. We will also have the baseline data that can show the effectiveness of our restoration projects.

Watershed Council Capacity Grant:

XV.) OWEB Council Support Grant:

- I'm in the process of putting the Council Support grant on a quarterly payment request schedule.

Watershed Action Planning:

XVI.) Landowner Outreach Grant (BLM):

- This BLM RAC grant (\$13,310) will begin development of landowner outreach materials for presenting rapid bioassessment work in priority sub-basins.

XVII.) Umpqua Focused Investment Partnership:

- The Umpqua Basin Partnership is in the process of scheduling a meeting in early March. We are trying to wrap up the strategic action plan that was funded by the OWEB capacity-building grant.

- I have been developing budget estimates for the Elk Creek Watershed Council projects that have been included in the plan.
- Partners have signed an agreement that will allow for funds in the capacity grant budget (that is being administered by PUR) to be disbursed to partners.
- There was much discussion about the structure and governance of the Partnership so that the interests of the individual partners are assured.
- PUR has submitted an application to the Bureau of Reclamation on behalf of the Partnership for funds to hire a facilitator for two years. The goal will be the development of governance documents to define the organizational structure of the UBP, and the responsibilities of the members in implementing restoration strategies at a basin-wide scale.

Fiscal Agent Programs:

XVIII.) Douglas County CREP:

- The final report for the 2016-2017 CREP program, and the final fund request, have been submitted to OWEB.
- The grant agreement for the 2018-2019 CREP program has been signed. The grant award is \$167,112.50.

XIX.) Oregon Weed Board Grant:

- The Department of Agriculture and OWEB have asked if we would administer the funds for the Douglas County Weed Program.
- The 2018 applications for priority weed control programs have been submitted.
- This will work roughly the same way as the CREP program.. We would be the fiscal agent, and we would contract with Douglas SWCD for implementation.

Administrative:

I.) Fiscal Year 2016 Tax Returns:

- The 2017 1099 forms were completed and sent in.

II.) Oregon Dept. of Revenue - Annual Report:

- Annual Report has been completed and the \$50 registration fee paid.

III.) BLM RAC Annual Reports:

- The annual progress and financial reports for our assistance agreements with BLM have been completed.
- The 2012 agreement is set to expired next September. The 2016 agreement expires in 2021.

IV.) Elk Creek Watershed Council Annual Report:

- The Council's annual report has been completed and delivered to the Douglas County Commissioners.